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**MEMORANDUM**

**PUBLIC MEETING- MEMPHIS, TN**

**AUGUST 3, 2012**

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Meeting 5 Memphis, TN 10:00 AM- 11:00 AM

Commissioner McPeak  
Larry Knight  
Chlora Lindley-Myers  
Christopher Garrett  
Sheila Burke

Approximately 60 people in attendance
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Guests: Senator, Reginald Tate

Introduction Chancellor, Opening remarks Commissioner Julie McPeak.

**1) ?** -

*Question:* Do you have anything that gives overview?

*Commissioner McPeak response:* Look on website, but we will display here on screen.

**2) John Merris**- Attorney, Oral School for the Deaf

*Focus:* Hearing impaired.

Cochlea implants: wants them covered under TennCare.

**3) Ginger Ragan**- School for deaf

*Focus:* Services for hearing impaired

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3 of 1,000 children born with hearing impairment, initially insurance did not cover- she was reviewed- then covered. She had implants at 22 months old, worked really well. Early amplification critical.

*Question:* Will benefits be covered?

**4) Abby Ragan-** Daughter, testified as to value of cochlea implants.

*Focus:* Hearing impaired

Had audiologist, speech therapy etc. Amazing success.

*Commissioner McPeak response:* You should contact....

**5) Nathalee Davis-** Memphis Oral School, Audiologist

*Focus:* Hearing aids, implants for children

Noted importance of involving parents, importance of early implementation.

**6) Christy Fernandez-** Dietician, Baptist Hospital

*Focus:* Nutrition Services

Only coverage today for diabetes, obesity needs to be covered, cost of surgery huge- heart disease also not covered- dietician can make a big difference please cover in preventative services.

**7) Amy Brewer-** UT Division of Endocrinology, Dietician/Researcher

*Focus:* nutrition services

**8) Ginger Carney-** Pediatric Dietician, St. Jude's Children's Hospital

*Focus:* Nutrition

Start early to avoid problems. Told story of obese child, could not pay for services.

**9) Cathy Wilson-** Parent of child with Spina bifida

*Focus:* DME

a. Cathartics, United won't pay -

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b. United does not pay for habilitative care, had to go to Blue Cross Blue Shield for PT

c. Orthotics need to be covered more than once per year.

*Commissioner McPeak response:* Pulled up benefit chart.

### **10) Kim Daugherty-** Friends for Life

*Focus:* HIV/Aids

Include:

- Drugs- supporting current standard of care some plans cover too few in classes, 6 predicted 0. Side effect treatment.
- Access to experts without unreasonable limitation.
- MI/Substance abuse treatment
- Lab tests every 3 to 6 months
- Case management system
- Preventive services, FDA contraceptive, annual HIV test, domestic violence counseling.

### **11) Jane Abraham-** Addiction Specialist, the Hart Center

*Focus:* Treatment for addicts

Acupuncture, helpful. Smoking cessation needs to be more than 12 sessions. HEPC, wants it covered in substance abuse.

### **12) Whitney Maxey-** Regional Medical Center

*Focus:* Treatment of HIV patients/pediatrics

Noted, obese children with HIV not being treated.

### **13) Dr. Lacey Smith-** UT Medical Center, Dual Diagnosis Rx Center

*Focus:* Care of alcoholics, addicts, MH patients

Treatment critical. Full continuation of care, prevention, screening, assessment, inpatient, outpatient, rehab.

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### **14) Charlotte Hoppers-** Green House of Memphis

*Focus:* Women needing long-term residential care (alcoholism, addicts)  
Trend continues in generations and takes a great deal of time/investment to address.

### **15) Stephanie Conolly-** M.D. UT Medical Center Internal Medicine

*Focus:* Hearing aids for children

- \$1,000/year not enough
- Ear molds need to change frequently.
- Audiology costs.
- Speech therapy now covered for her but it was a huge battle- frequent denials then revised, huge paperwork process.
- Concerned about coverage after 18.

### **16) Marlin McKelvy-** Consumer Directed Benefits Solutions

*Focus:* Cost of package

Tough choices, need to set priorities- high cost patients should get priority, not my chiropractor services. We keep adding benefits and folks cannot afford.

### **17) Jennifer Barnoud-** Registered Dietician, University of Memphis

*Focus:* Nutrition Services

### **18) Kathy Morrison-**

*Focus:* What is really necessary in minimum plans.

Her example: Catheters for children, will save money over time. Need to look at essential services for children.

### **19) Stephanie Conolly-** M.D. University of Tennessee Health Center

We often do not get choice from employers, you have to take what they offer.

### **20) Dr. Ann Brown-** Methodist Health Care

*Focus:* Nutrition services

Very important, wants to prevent illness like diabetes. You are what you eat.

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**21) Dr. Art Sutherland**- Cardiologist, Physicians for National Health Care

*Focus:* Health care for all